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THE WATCH COMMITTEE AND THE NATIONAL INDICATIONS CENTER

BASIC REQUIREMENT

In support of these basic security requirements, it is necessary that the United States:

a. Develop and maintain an intelligence system capable of:

(1) Collecting and analyzing indications of hostile intentions that would give maximum prior warning of possible aggression or subversion in any area of the world.

(2) Accurately evaluating the capabilities of foreign countries, friendly and neutral as well as enemy, to undertake military, political, economic, and subversive courses of action affecting U.S. security.

(3) Forecasting potential foreign developments having a bearing on U.S. national security. (NSC 162/2 - Para 10 a)

MISSION

To provide earliest possible warning to the United States Government of hostile action by the USSR, or its allies, which endangers the security of the United States. (DCID 1/2 - Para B)

FUNCTIONS

1. To analyze and evaluate information and intelligence, both current and cumulative, on an all-source basis, furnished by the IAC agencies relating to the imminence of hostilities, and to develop therefrom the conclusions as to indications of:

a. Soviet/Communist intentions to initiate hostilities against

(1) the continental United States, U.S. possessions, or U.S. forces abroad,

(2) U.S. allies or their forces,

(3) areas peripheral to the Soviet Orbit.

b. any other development, actual or potential, susceptible of direct exploitation by Soviet/Communist hostile action which would jeopardize the security of the United States.

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2. To report promptly their conclusions, together with significant indications, to the principals of the IAC and other appropriate recipients. In the event of an impending critical situation, IAC principals will be immediately advised after which the provisions of paragraph 6, NSCID No. 1, will apply. (DCID 1/2 - paras C 2 and 3)

To wit: Whenever any member of the Intelligence Advisory Committee obtains information that indicates an impending crisis situation, such as the outbreak of hostilities involving the United States, or a condition which affects the security of the United States to such an extent that immediate action or decision on the part of the President or the National Security Council seems to be required, he shall immediately furnish the information to the other members of the Intelligence Advisory Committee as well as to other officials or agencies as may be indicated by the circumstances. The Director of Central Intelligence shall immediately convene the Intelligence Advisory Committee. After receiving the views of the Intelligence Advisory Committee members, the Director of Central Intelligence shall promptly prepare and disseminate the national intelligence estimate. (NSCID 1- para 6)

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Develop and operate on a current and continuing basis the Watch Committee Intelligence Plan for systematizing, energizing, and coordinating through appropriate channels the world-wide collection by U.S. agencies of information and intelligence pertinent to the Watch Committee mission.

2. Arrange through the IAC or the appropriate member thereof for exploitation of every domestic and foreign source of information and intelligence pertinent to the Watch Committee mission; and, among other actions, arrange, at appropriate times, that representatives of IAC field intelligence activities confer with the IAC and the Watch Committee in order effectively to coordinate, but not direct, field intelligence activities with the activities of the Watch Committee.

3. Arrange with the IAC agencies for a systematic screening of all information and intelligence received by them by any means for the purpose of immediately extracting and forwarding to the Indications Center all items which may contain indications of Soviet/Communist intentions. (DCID 1/2 - paras E1 - 3)

In support of the Watch Committee and NIC, the President on 30 November 1954 approved NSC 5438; directing all appropriate departments and agencies of the Government:

"1. To make fully available to the IAC Watch Committee all information and intelligence of reasonable credibility pertinent to its mission and functions without restriction because of source, policy or operational sensitivity.

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"2. To keep the IAC Watch Committee informed concerning significant diplomatic, political, military, or other courses of action by the U. S., approved for immediate implementation or in process of execution, which might bring about military reaction or early hostile action by the USSR, or its allies, thus endangering the security of the U.S. This information is for the explicit and express use of the Watch Committee and those members of the National Indications Center who need to know of it in order to perform their functions." (NSC 5438)

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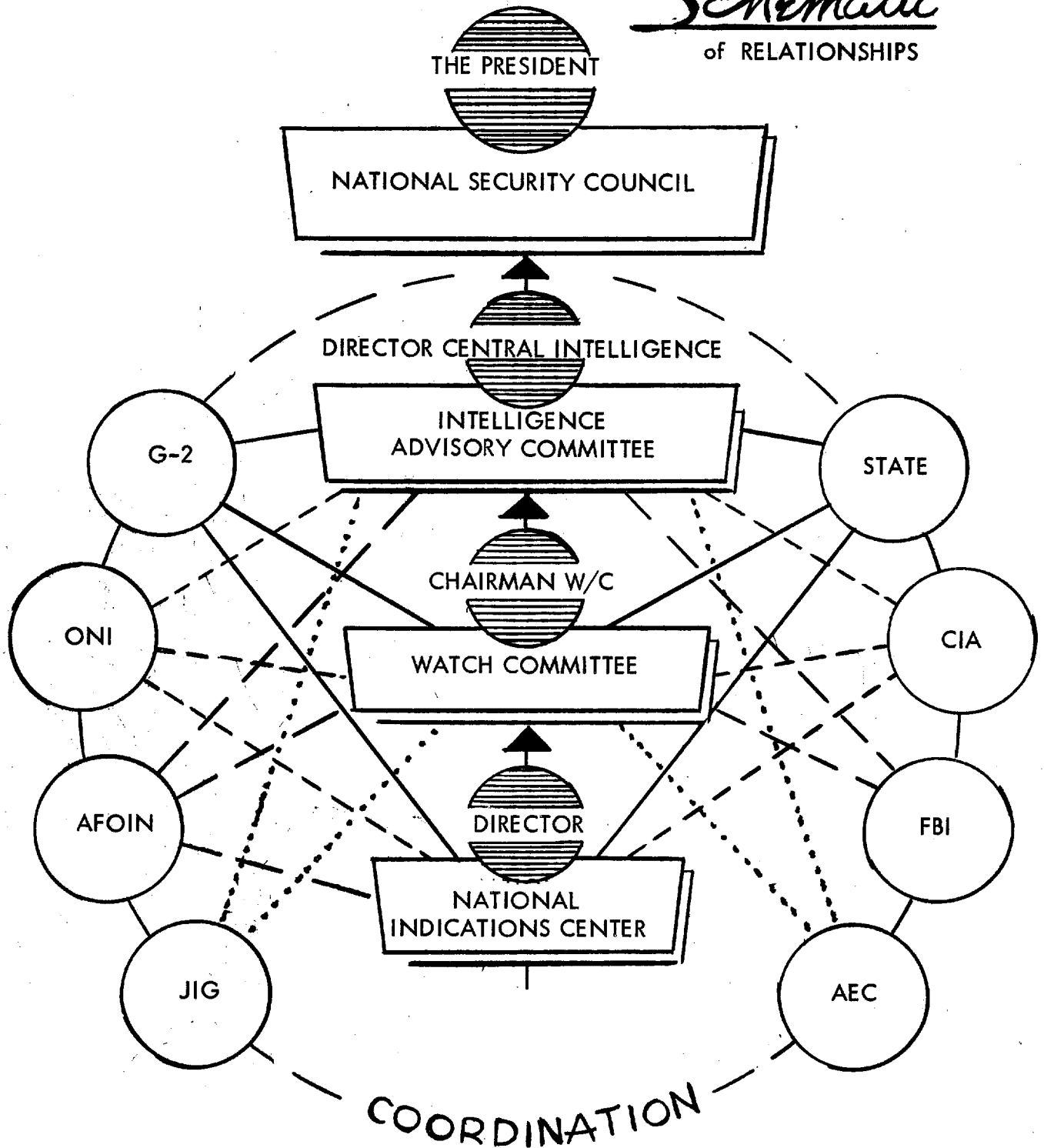
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NATIONAL INDICATIONS CENTER

Schematic
of RELATIONSHIPS



NIC

February 7, 1955

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